I came across a saying today that struck a chord with me, “August is like the Sunday of Summer.” Does that mean June is like the Friday, full of enthusiasm and get up and go? With July like the Saturday: carefree and unrushed? Would August as the Sunday be characterized as more contemplative and preparative? Let’s use this analogy and take a look at the summer months at the nature center.

Reviewing the visitor logs there appears to be a recurring trend. Picture a bell curve, with June on the left, July in the middle and August on the right. June visitor counts increase slightly from May, continue to rise in July, then begin to decrease in August. This is probably pretty typical of all attractions or destinations and most likely driven by school schedules and family vacations.

This same trend effects the type of events and programs we offer during the summer months. With families visiting the area and kids of all ages spending quality time with grandparents, our programs are designed with this audience in mind. Not to mention the numerous requests we get from the camps to supplement their activity and community service schedules. So we again see this familiar bell curve.

Interestingly, the adult education program schedule appears as an inverted bell curve. Mid-summer is not an ideal time to capture the attention of most students of nature. Perhaps it is because many of the target audience are off on their own natural adventures.

With many of our local nature minded folks off adventuring, the volunteer pool is also slightly depleted. If this is going to happen, then this is a good time of the year. By August, the gardens are well into their summer dormancy and the most needed attention is in the form of a summer shower.

Keeping with our theme that August is like the Sunday of Summer, we find ourselves a bit anxious and excited for the Monday of Fall. So, let’s be sure we are well rested and ready to hit the ground running (that’s a hint to register for the 4th Annual Run for Riverside 5K).

Until next time....

Becky
Beat The Heat

Join us for a morning in nature with Migas & Mimosas!

Saturday, August 4th
8am-10am

Event tickets are $35
Raffle tickets are available for $5
for the chance to win a Yeti Hopper 30!

Visit www.riversidenaturecenter.org to purchase tickets or email rnc.kerrville@gmail.com for more information.

All proceeds will benefit Riverside Nature Center’s environmental education program.
AUGUST 2018 Riverside Nature Center Upcoming Events/Programs

Thursday, August 2, 2018
6-7 p.m.  RNC Nature Night
Plant Lore & Agriculture Customs

Saturday, August 4, 2018
8-10 a.m.  Beat the Heat
RNC’s late summer fundraiser.

Monday, August 6, 2018
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.  Texas Waters

Thursday, August 9, 2018
6-7 p.m.  RNC Nature Night-
Become an archeologist.

Tuesday, August 14, 2018
10:30-11:30 a.m.
RNC Walk with Shucks the corn
snake.  Shucks and his friend
Karen will answer your questions
about snakes. All ages welcome

Saturday, August 18, 2018
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
RNC Bird Walk & Talk  Go birding
along the river trail. Meet in front of
the nature center. All ages are
welcome.

Tuesday, August 21, 2018
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
RNC NEd Talk “Hurricane
Preparedness Hill Country Style”
The speaker is Warning
Coordination Meteorologist
Paul Yura with the National
Weather Service.  See Page 8.

Monday, August 27, 2018
4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.  Texas Waters

Save the Date

Saturday, September 8, 2018
8 a.m.
Run For Riverside 5 K
VOLUNTEERS are needed To help with the race. Please email
director@riversidenaturecenter.org to enlist. Thank you!
See Page 9 for more details

Friday, October 5, 2018
4:30 - 6 p.m.
Members Only Fall Plant Sale
See Page 6 for details

Saturday, October 6, 2018
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fall Plant Sale & Festival
See Page 6 for details
What you may see this month at RNC - August 2018
Written by Martha Miesch     Photos by Marilyn Knight

CENIZO - PURPLE SAGE
Leucothyllum frutescans (Scrophulariaceae)

One of the most fascinating shrubs at RNC is the one that “talks” to you: cenizo, or purple sage. It serves as a signal when rainy skies may actually produce positive results and dry soil is begging for moisture. Considering the drought this spring and early summer we have seen fewer colorful wildflowers that we love - sunflowers, bluebonnets, etc. - and a shorter blooming period for what we did get.

But presto, it seemed overnight the greyish green bush we had ignored sprang into colorful lavender-pink blooms on the grounds of RNC and all over town recently. This may be why it is such a popular home landscape planting. Wildflower blooms draw smiles to our faces and butterflies and bees are drawn to the blooming nectar.

This is a full rounded shrub that can be 4 to 7 ft. tall. The blooms can be seen three or four days after a shower and are not fooled by a garden hose. It is drought resistant and tolerant of the poor soils which we have in abundance in the Hill Country.

Look at the beautiful blooms in Marilyn’s pictures. After experiencing an annoying drought you can talk to those blooms and say thank you.

Although it is sometimes called the barometer bush because it is sensitive to moisture and can be covered with a mass of delicate blossoms after a rain, it is not a dependable weather forecaster as it may sprout flowers at any time. Ranchers sometimes call it the “liar’s bush.” It can bloom over millions of acres after a widespread rainfall.

Check it out at several locations on the Nature Center grounds and see what it might be telling you.

More of Marilyn’s photos on the next page...
Early settlers used the leaves to make a tea to treat jaundice, or a discoloring of the skin with a breakdown of red blood cells. Also the bushes provide cover for wildlife and nesting space for birds. So this specie of foxglove can serve man and wildlife alike.

It is consumed by wildlife only when nothing else is available or desirable. Deer will browse the leaves sometimes.
Run & Walk
Sept. 8th @8am
Yoga, Refreshments, Awards, and Door Prizes!
Live music provided by Ric Lemon & The Menagerie Band

Registration Prices:
$25 until Aug. 15th
$30 Aug. 16th-Sept. 6th
$35 Sept. 7th-8th Race Day

Contact:
Liz Ross
runforriverside@gmail.com

To Register
go to:
riversidenaturecenter.org

Riverside Nature Center
150 Francisco Lemos Street Kerrville, Tx 78028

This out and back course runs on the Kerrville river trail along the Guadalupe River with plenty of shade and water stops. All proceeds will go to benefit the Riverside Nature Center.

Strollers and dogs are welcome
Registered entrants are guaranteed a race T-shirt!
Hurricane Preparedness Hill Country Style

Hurricane season arrived early this year but what does the rest of the season have in store for Texas and the Hill Country?

Texas relies on tropical rains to keep our lakes, rivers, and aquifers from running dry in the summer, so what are the current trends in weather for this part of Texas?

Are we getting hotter and drier or is the reporting and observation just getting better?

Trying to figure out these trends is a huge challenge for various reasons.

Paul Yura will share NOAA’s predictions for our future weather patterns.

$5 Suggested donation

Paul Yura was born and raised in Austin, TX and received his Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma. He joined the National Weather Service in 1992 and has worked as a forecaster and lead forecaster in Norman Oklahoma, Brownsville Texas, and Charleston, South Carolina. Paul became a Warning Coordination Meteorologist in 2006, and has worked at the Austin-San Antonio National Weather Service Office since 2008. Paul’s primary job is to be the liaison between the National Weather Service and local media, citizens, county, state, and federal agencies. He conducts storm damage surveys and leads the community outreach program.
Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

**Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival**
**Saturday - October 6, 2018 - 9am-2pm**

We know it’s hot but we are thinking about Fall. Texas Master Naturalists – Hill Country Chapter & RNC are making plans for a fun day at Riverside Nature Center.

**Native Plant Sale**

Volunteers are working with local growers and nurseries to bring you the best selection available for our Native Plant sale. It begins at 9am so plan to come early for the best selection! _A special pre-sale will be held 4:30pm-6pm, Friday, October 5th, for RNC and HCMN members only._ Non-members can join Riverside Nature Center at the presale and start shopping.

*All net proceeds benefit the RNC and TMN-HCC education efforts.*

**Fun & Informative Talks**

11:00 am  
TBA

**Raffle**

**Informative Exhibits & Displays**

**Nature Photo Print Sale**

As always, we could not do this without our wonderful volunteers. If you can help us please contact the office:

director@riversidenaturecenter.org
830-257-4837
From creating solar art to discovering how to identify birds as well as tarantulas, Nature Night in July was fun.
Thank you to the youth volunteers from the U_U camp who were willing to get a bit muddy to make a significant contribution in keeping our waterways clean! We enjoyed their help and look forward to another project with them next summer.
Larry Altman demonstrated the dynamics of the watershed with the RNC river model.

Thanks to a lot of coordination and willing folks, our Guadalupe was cleared during the UGRA annual clean up.
Rayne Bermea interned this summer with Riverside Nature Center from the Schreiner University Work Study Program. She is a senior majoring in Biology and Psychology. She is originally from Lake Charles, LA.

Rayne helped us catalogue a lot of our archives and programmed our Jeopardy game for one of the Nature Night Programs. She has helped us get organized in several projects.

Rayne says “I enjoyed being able to step out into the wildscape grounds during my breaks.

We enjoyed working with her!

Thank you, Rayne and to Schreiner work study!
What is a Riverside Nature Center?

Located at the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Town Creek in the Hill Country town of Kerrville —2010 population, 22,347— Riverside Nature Center is a 501[c][3] nonprofit organization, owned by its members and primarily operated by volunteers.

Our mission is to foster greater public awareness and appreciation of the Texas Hill Country’s natural resources through education, information, and by example. We provide quality educational experiences for the community’s children, adults and families; and we serve as a resource center for the community on native plants and nature related information.